

This makes eight away league defeats in a row

Bromley tormented by Len Worley and Co.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 4, BROMLEY 0

THE RECORD BOOKS will tell you that Bromley's last away victory was against Corinthian-Casuals at Sandy Lane, Tooting, on August 20. It would take a bold man, complete with crystal ball, Old Moore's Almanac and every prophetic accessory, to predict when the next one will be achieved.

Certainly there was never any suggestion at Loakes Park on Saturday that Bromley's previous run of seven successive away Isthmian League defeats was coming to an end. For Wycombe, enterprising in attack and competent in defence, were in control from first whistle to last.



Alan Bonney—Bromley's best defender.

Man for man, Wycombe had the more skilful players. Tactically, Wycombe were better prepared. But where Bromley were most disappointing was in their apparent lack of urgency.

Wycombe were quicker into the tackle, quick to pick up the loose ball, and never gave any Bromley player time to settle on the ball.

In contrast, Bromley's marking could scarcely be described as tight, and there was a regrettable air of indifference when beaten.

No one profited more from Bromley's shortcomings than Wycombe's international right winger, Len Worley. With his speed off the mark and immaculate ball control he tormented the Bromley defence in general—and George Coote in particular.

Alan Bonney was a tower of strength in the Bromley defence—without his presence Wycombe would surely have run riot. But it was asking too much to expect

him to cope with both Faulkner and Horseman, and he was given only brittle support in the centre.

Behind him, Peter Higgins made a number of good saves, and may just have found time to reflect on the paucity of cover afforded him by his fellow defenders.

The first instance of Bromley's vulnerability in the penalty area came as early as the third minute—and resulted in a goal for Wycombe.

Julian Lailey, a talented and industrious player who has been selected to play for an F.A. Amateur XI later this month, crossed the ball from the left, and Tony Horseman beat Higgins with a header. It was a well-executed goal, but if only someone had been in position to challenge Horseman, it might have been prevented.

Lailey continued to stamp his class on the game, breaking up Bromley's attempts at attack before they had time to develop, positioning himself astutely and making innumerable interceptions.

Bromley continued to be pressed back, and in the 15th minute they fell further behind. Left back Charlie Gale joined up with his forwards, and from not far short of the bye line he centred up the hill, and Vic Faulkner sprawled headlong in the mud to ram the ball into the net.

Bromley conceded a string of corners under pressure, and that man Worley took them all, regardless of which side of the field they were won. And, just like his orthodox centres, every corner kick was a threat.

Just before half-time Bromley's medical attendant, Albert Rayner, officiating in his 100th first-team match for Bromley, had to give attention to Jeff Bridge, who received a kick in the back.

Bridge played out the last seven minutes of the first half on the right wing, and was replaced at the interval by substitute Dave Davenport.

Bromley mounted sporadic raids on the Wycombe goal in the second half—with Roy Agar supplying as much effort as anyone—but never developed any real fire.

They seemed almost content to contain Wycombe, as if keeping the margin of defeat down was enough.

But in the end they failed to do even that. With 15 minutes to go Stuart Scott edged the ball into his own net in attempting a tackle on Horseman, and two minutes later the unlucky Scott did tackle Horseman, but only succeeded in helping the ball on to Faulkner, who gratefully slipped in No. 4.

Bromley. — Higgins, Bridge, Coote, Wigham, Bonney, Scott, Agar, Howe, Stonebridge, Amato, Tait. Sub.: Davenport (for Bridge).

JOHN HULLS.